

Application No. 09/998,557
Amendment dated February 28, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of December 28, 2004

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 13-15, 17-20 and 24-52 were pending in this application. Claims 1, 13, 25, 32, 39 and 46 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Hence, claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 13-15, 17-20 and 24-52 remain pending. Reconsideration of the subject application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 13, 15, 17, 25, 27, 28, 32, 34, 35, 39, 41, 42, 46, 48 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,187,735 to Herrero Garcia et al. ("Herrero Garcia") in view of US Patent No. 5,550,899 to McLeod et al. ("McLeod").

Claims 2, 7-9, 11, 12, 14, 18-20, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,745,553 to Mirville et al. ("Mirville") in view of Herrero Garcia and further in view of US Patent No. 5,937,047 to Stabler ("Stabler").

Claims 1, 13, 25, 32, 39 and 46 have been amended to more particularly recite the Applicant's claimed invention. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 13, 25, 32, 39 and 46 have been amended to include subject matter from allowed claim 24. The remaining claims all depend from one of claims 1, 13, 24, 25, 32, 39 and 46. Hence, all claims now pending include allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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